



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

02 JUN 2009

Ms. Peggy Casey
Environmental Projects Team Leader
Federal Highway Administration
3220 W Edgewood, Ste H
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Mr. Kevin Keith
Chief Engineer
Missouri Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Ms. Casey and Mr. Keith:

RE: Review of Improve i70 – Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Interstate 70 Corridor, Kansas City to St. Louis, Missouri FHWA-MO-EIS-09-01, MoDOT Job Number: J411341

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Improve I70 – Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Interstate 70 Corridor from Kansas City to St. Louis, Missouri, a distance of approximately 200 miles. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The FSEIS was assigned the CEQ number 20090169.

The FSEIS adequately identifies potential environmental and human health impacts, based largely on the findings included in the Second Tier Draft Environmental Impact Statements for seven Sections of Independent Utility throughout the corridor.

We thank you for addressing our concerns regarding Environmental Justice and Residential Displacement, as well as Wildlife Crossings.

Your clarification of displacements being located at the "Links at Columbia" golf community versus being located in the EPA-identified EJ area is helpful. However, in regards to the four structure displacements attributed to the S-to-S interchange alternative, identified as the only reasonable interchange alternative for SIU 4 in Columbia, EPA has the following comments.

The FSEIS states on page 67 of Technical Memorandum 3: Tier 2 Evaluation that "the availability of replacement housing in the locale remains adequate for displacements," and "environmental justice analysis and findings from the Second Tier Studies remain valid for the SEIS and can be referenced in Chapter 3, Section C on page III-92 of the SIU 4 Draft EIS." EPA notes that due to the projected extensive timeline of this project, as you pointed out in the SIU 4 DEIS (Ch 3, page III-86), a future housing market analysis may need to be prepared to determine appropriate actions for relocation, in addition to compliance with other provisions of the Uniform Act and Relocation Assistance Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments regarding this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 913-551-7565 or via email at tucker.amber@epa.gov, or you may contact Joe Cothorn, NEPA Team leader, at 913-551-7148 or via email at cothorn.joe@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amber Tucker".

Amber Tucker
NEPA Reviewer
Environmental Services Division